Message Text

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DRAFTED BY E:WJCASEY
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
S/S- MR. LUERS

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TOSEC 144

E.O. 11652 TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR LEGISLATION

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM UNDER SECRETARY CASEY

1. PRESIDENTIAL DECISION IS REQUIRED ON ADMINISTRATION STANCE ON NEW SUGAR LEGISLATION TO REPLACE SUGAR ACT WHICH EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 1974. AGRICULTURE PROPOSES A NEW SYSTEM WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE SUGAR IMPORT QUOTAS AND SET A TARGET PRICE FOR SUGAR WITH INCOME BENEFITS TO DOMESTIC GROWERS WHEN PRICE FALLS BELOW THAT LEVEL. EXCEPT FOR TREASURY, OTHER AGENCIES CONCUR GENERALLY, SOME PREFERRING AN IMMEDIATE ELIMINATION OF QUOTAS AND OTHERS PREFERRING TRANSITION OVER THREE TO FIVE YEARS. ELIMINATION OF SUGAR QUOTAS WOULD BE TROUBLESOME FOR THE PHILIPPINES, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, JAMAICA, PERU, PANAMA, AND OTHER LATIN AMERICAN AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE GEOGRAPHIC BUREAUS STRONGLY PREFER CONTINUATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM. STRONG CONGRESSIONAL FORCES ALSO PREFER THE QUOTA SYSTEM, SO THAT THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT EFFORT TO ELIMINATE QUOTAS WOULD SUCCEED. EB URGES THAT ELIMINATION OF QUOTAS WOULD MAKE SUGAR POLICY COMPATIBLE WITH BALANCE OF U.S. FARM PROGRAM, WOULD OPEN UP U.S. MARKET TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGN SUGAR GROWERS ON AN UNTIED BASIS, BE MORE

CONSISTENT WITH U.S. SUPPORT OF OPEN INTERNATIONAL TRADING SYSTEM, AND AVOID ANNUAL STRUGGLE OVER CARVING UP SUGAR QUOTA AMONG FOREIGN PRODUCERS.

2. AT A MEETING IN WHICH THESE VIEWPOINTS WERE THRASHED OUT, RUSH AND I CONCLUDED THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO ELIMINATE QUOTAS IN THE FACE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL PRESSURE IN THE PHILIPPINES SURROUNDING RENEGOTIATION OF NEW ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP TO REPLACE LAUREL-LANGLEY, BAUXITE PROBLEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN, OIL AND OTHER PRESSURES ON LDCS, PRESENT U.S. STANCE TOWARDS LDCS IN GENERAL, AND YOUR PLANS FOR A NEW INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA. IF YOU CONCUR, THIS POSITION WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO THE PRESIDENT THROUGH CIEP. RUSH

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